

STRAIGHT FROM THE STATEHOUSE

MCGREEVEY UNVEILS GOVERNOR'S SCHOOLS OF EXCELLENCE PROGRAM

Governor McGreevey and Education Commissioner Librera announced the Governor's Schools of Excellence initiative last week. The initiative is a three-year, \$2 million program set to begin in September 2003.

"This new program, like the teachers who led New Jersey to the forefront of education in 2002, will continue to pave the way so that we can and will make this state the premier state to teach in the nation," said McGreevey.

Both the Governor and Commissioner Librera lauded the creation of the Governor's Schools of Excellence program.

They say it represents the Administration and the Department of Education's commitment to providing leadership for a superior education by utilizing multiple paths of success for all students in New Jersey.

MCGREEVEY GARNERS PRAISE FOR DMV SECURITY REFORMS

Law enforcement officials voiced their support for the Administration's DMV security reform package—a \$200 million initiative that calls for a major overhaul of the agency to address pressing security issues.

"Creating a safe and secure DMV requires the support of not just state government, but the law enforcement community as well. We have made significant strides to reverse the culture of neglect that we inherited, and I want to thank law enforcement and county prosecutors for working in partnership with us as we implement these reforms," said the Governor.

State Senator Nicholas Sacco, Assembly Speaker Albio Sires and Assemblyman John Wisniewski sponsored legislation that will support structural reforms and necessary revenue provisions. A final vote is expected on the legislation by the end of the year.



Governor McGreevey speaks on DMV reform at a press conference in the Outer Office.

The reform package includes a series of customer service improvements, including Saturday hours and increased services on the DMV website.

To date, the Governor said reforms have led to more than 60 arrests, removal of nearly half of the DMV's private agents, the completion of background checks on more than 500 agency employees, development of a document fraud-training unit and the addition of fraud investigators.

MCGREEVEY FILES PENSION LAWSUITS

Governor McGreevey, Attorney General Samson and State Treasurer John McCormac announced that they are filing four lawsuits against corporate defendants responsible for more than \$150 million in State pension system losses. The lawsuits seek to recoup losses that allegedly resulted from misconduct by the corporations.

"These lawsuits will send a powerful message to corporate leaders, on behalf of all investors, that those who commit securities fraud will face the consequences. Our citizens work hard for their money. We will defend their financial interests, just as we are defending the integrity of the State's investment process."